

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	EB Docket No. 04-296
Review of the Emergency Alert System	)	
	)	
	)	

To: Office of the Secretary

**SUPPLEMENT TO JOINT COMMENTS AND JOINT REPLY COMMENTS OF THE  
NINE STATE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATIONS**

Alabama Broadcasters Association, Arkansas Broadcasters Association, Connecticut Broadcasters Association, Illinois Broadcasters Association, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, Nevada Broadcasters Association, Texas Association of Broadcasters, and Washington State Association of Broadcasters (collectively, the “Nine State Associations”), by their attorneys in this matter, and pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission’s Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, hereby submit this Supplement to their Joint Comments, filed on October 29, 2004, and their Joint Reply Comments, filed on December 13, 2004, in response to *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (“NPRM”)*, FCC 04-189, in the above-referenced docket, released August 12, 2004, pertaining to the Commission’s Emergency Alert System (“EAS”).

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On April 13, 2005, the Nine State Associations and many others filed a supplement to its Joint Comments and Joint Reply Comments in an effort to keep the Commission informed about

its ongoing efforts to increase the efficiency of EAS. The instant pleading serves to update progress reports made by the various states.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Texas Progress Report Update**

The Texas State Plan was revised in March 2004 and the statewide Texas Amber Alert Network Plan was revised in July 2003. The state's 254 counties are divided into 25 local EAS areas and eight of those areas have local EAS Plans and/or regional AMBER Plans. Some of the local areas require up to three "daisy chain" relays for adequate distribution of an EAS alert. There is good cooperation with the NOAA but limited participation by the State Emergency Management.

### **B. Arkansas Progress Report Update**

Arkansas has an EAS and AMBER Alert plan. The backbone of both plans is the Arkansas Educational Television Network, which has a number of translators around the state. The state also works very closely with the National Weather Service to provide a well-rounded, redundant method of disseminating emergency messages. Additionally, the Arkansas State Police recently completed a new communications center, which should improve the delivery of AMBER Alerts.

### **C. Illinois Progress Report Update**

Illinois recently revised its state plan, which is now current through June 2005. The plan fosters the idea of EAS operations as a "web" rather than a "chain." Accordingly, stations rely on the LP1 and LP2 to relay state and national emergency information, but local emergencies, such as developing weather conditions, should be monitored directly by each station. The state

has been divided into 11 local areas and each of those areas has two or more key broadcast stations that will disseminate regional information during an emergency.

**D. Nevada Progress Report Update**

Currently, Nevada has no statewide EAS coverage. The Nevada Broadcasters Association and the Nevada SECC are working to improve EAS through the use of the state microwave system. Nevada has one PEP station in Reno but recognizes a need for another in Las Vegas, which is the state's population center.

**E. Kansas Progress Report Update**

Kansas EAS State Committee applied for and received a state homeland security grant to install EAS encoders and decoders in the NWS weather forecast offices serving Kansas, to add redundancy to the EAS system. Currently, installation of this equipment is underway.

**F. Washington Progress Report Update**

The Washington SECC meets bi-monthly and continually monitors the state's EAS system performance, works to solve any problems that arise and devises and implements improvements to the system. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Washington SECC will be working to ensure that its system is capable of responding to extreme emergencies.

**G. Louisiana Progress Report Update**

During both Hurricane Katrina and Rita, no agency utilized EAS other than NWS, although broadcasters provided continuous coverage and disseminated information about evacuation orders, shelters, gasoline availability and the like. Louisiana broadcasters have made EAS available to local and state governments for activation during emergencies if and when they choose to use it.

## H. Connecticut Progress Report Update

The Connecticut Broadcasters Association is in the process of reviewing its state EAS plan to determine whether an update is necessary.

## I. Alabama Progress Report Amendment

As mentioned in prior pleadings, Alabama has eliminated the daisy chain system. The state currently uses the public TV network and a digital satellite radio network to deliver emergency alerts.<sup>1</sup>

### III. CONCLUSION

The Nine State Associations submit this supplement with the intention of keeping the Commission updated and informed about its efforts and initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

## NINE STATE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATIONS

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<sup>1</sup> The prior pleadings seemed to suggest that Alabama uses the public radio network to disseminate its radio emergency alerts.